

***Amendments to the Claims:***

Please cancel claims 1-32, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the underlying subject matter, and please add the following claims 33-38:

1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) A DNA construct comprising a coding sequence for a KAS factor A protein, wherein said coding sequence for a KAS factor A protein is derived from a species from the genus *Cuphea*.

34. (New) The DNA construct of claim 33, wherein said species is selected from the group consisting of *C. hookeriana* and *C. pulcherrima*.

35. (New) The DNA construct of claim 34, wherein said species is *C. hookeriana*.

36. (New) The DNA construct of claim 35, wherein said KAS factor A protein has the amino acid sequence set forth in residues 125-466 of SEQ ID NO:6.

37. (New) The DNA construct of claim 36, wherein said coding sequence for said KAS factor A protein is SEQ ID NO:7.

38. (New) The DNA construct of claim 37, wherein said KAS factor A protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.